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Letter dated 18 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

Despite evident facts, which the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been permanently pointing out and which are known to you as well as to the world public, terror, violence, murders and other crimes against Serbs and the other non-Albanian population in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija continue unabated.

The latest example testifying to the terror and violence perpetrated by terrorists of the so-called KLA against Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija happened on 15 April 2000. On that day, terrorists of the so-called KLA set fire to and flattened with bulldozers 250 houses in the Serb village of Bijelo Polje near Pec. By this act, terrorists want to prevent the return of Serbs to their homes that they had to flee in June last year. Serbs from the village of Bijelo Polje have been expelled despite the deployment of KFOR and UNMIK in Kosovo and Metohija.

Before they set fire to and flattened the Serb houses, Albanian terrorists looted them and took away the looted goods in 15 trucks. The burning and tearing down of Serb houses in the village of Bijelo Polje near Pec was done before the eyes of KFOR and UNMIK. KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner have thus shown once again that they are not ready to fulfil their key obligations - to provide security to all citizens of Kosovo and Metohija and to protect their property. By turning a blind eye to this latest in the series of crimes, KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner have once again grossly violated United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

This crime carried out against Serbs in the Serb village of Bijelo Polje is yet more evidence that United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) is not being implemented. The non-implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) hinders the return of expelled Serbs and the other non-Albanian population to Kosovo and Metohija, which is the main obligation of KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that you will take without delay all necessary steps within the Security Council, and with KFOR, UNMIK and B. Kouchner so that the terror against and harassment of Serbs and the other non-Albanian population in the Serbian province in Kosovo and Metohija be stopped at once, both by terrorists of the so-called KLA and by KFOR, UNMIK and Bernard Kouchner.

I would like to ask you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.